



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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March 18, 2002

TO: Internal File

THRU: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor *pgl*

FROM: Peter H. Hess, Sr. Reclamation Specialist, Engineering *PH*

RE: Documentation of Telephone Conversation between Peter Hess, Utah DOGM, and Mike Herkimer, Utah Division of Water Quality of the Dirty Mine Water Discharge at the Horizon Coal Mine.

On March 15, 2002 during a complete inspection at the Horizon Mine that is operated by Lodestar Energy, Inc., dirty water was observed to be discharging into Jewkes Creek from the undisturbed bypass culvert. Prior to observing this, that portion of Jewkes Creek which is above the Mine site, was observed to not be flowing. Ambient air temperatures on this day were below freezing. The Mine discharges the water that is collected in-Mine through UPDES point 002A into the undisturbed bypass at a point that is approximately 1,020 feet away. On March 15, 2002, the Division issued a verbal cessation order to the permittee to immediately stop all mine pumping that discharged onto the surface of the permit area. As the Mine has a great deal of inflow, the cessation of all surface discharge activities does have the potential to flood the workings and inundate all of the machinery. The Division management in Salt Lake City was notified of this situation. Mine management immediately made the necessary changes to the in-mine plumbing system to re-divert the mine water being pumped into an underground sump where the suspended and dissolved solids could settle.

The water sample that had been collected was forwarded to Commercial Testing and Engineering in Huntington, Utah for analysis.

On March 18, 2002, a telephone call was placed to Mr. Mike Herkimer of the Utah Division of Water Quality to inform that Agency of the dirty water discharge from the Horizon Mine workings. During that conversation, Mr. Herkimer informed the Division that several DWQ employees had also sampled dirty water emanating from the Horizon culvert on the afternoon of March 12, 2002, sometime during the afternoon.

Thus, it appears that the Horizon Mine has been discharging mine water which may exceed both the total suspended and dissolved solids parameters for UPDES permit #UTG040000. Analyses for both the DEQ and DOGM samples are pending.